

Traffic congestion is a concern for everyone.

Please bear with us as we experience some growing pains.

As you probably have already noticed, Tempe is going through a major growing phase, which includes several major construction projects occurring simultaneously. This is an exciting time as our City grows. Unfortunately, the increased construction activity also translates into increased street restrictions and traffic congestion. The vast amount of projects occurring simultaneously further complicates the facilitation of smooth traffic flow through the city. These projects include construction of the light rail transit project and extensive ASU expansion, including a major water and sewer improvement project. In addition, a vibrant economy and Tempe's attractiveness have spurred numerous private development projects necessitating additional infrastructure improvements to public and private utilities, including water, sewer, electrical and gas lines.

The necessity of all of these activities needing to occur within defined time frames is unavoidable. Unfortunately this has resulted in high levels of traffic restrictions and frustrating delays. Although it may not appear so when you are stuck in traffic, we are constantly evaluating the roadway restrictions and modifying time frames to minimize the impacts as much as feasibly possible.

We encourage you to access up-to-date information about roadway restrictions via our web site at www.tempe.gov/traffic. Or you can subscribe to get emails regarding traffic restrictions, closures and bus detours at www.tempe.gov/lists.

Frequently asked questions:

Question: Why doesn't Tempe conduct the construction on University Drive during the summer when ASU is on break?

Answer: The water and sewer project on University Drive is a very extensive project that will last approximately seven months. This project, which was requested and funded by ASU, began March 2006 with the majority of the disruptions scheduled to occur this summer. The project is scheduled to be completed in October 2006.

Question: Why does all this construction have to happen at once?

Answer: The light rail transit, water and sewer projects are funded in such a way that the monies must be spent within a certain time frame.

The light rail transit project has been scheduled for construction since 2001. This is the largest public works project ever endeavored in the Valley, and necessitates closing or restricting several streets in order to relocate private utilities, install new curb, gutter and sidewalks and lay track.

A vibrant economy has spurred numerous private development projects. Many of these projects were not known when Tempe began construction of the light rail transit project and the water and sewer project.

Question: How can Tempe residents get information about all the street closures and restrictions?

Answer: People can subscribe to get emails regarding traffic restrictions, closures and bus detours at www.tempe.gov/lists. In addition, print advertisements run periodically in the Tempe section of the Arizona Republic and in the ASU State Press. Regional and local newspapers, including the Arizona Republic, East Valley Tribune and North Tempe News also run information related to closures and restrictions.